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SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

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FACT-FINDING IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS

IT HAS BEEN SAID that the opening-up of Africa to the mutual benefit of its peoples and of the world at large is to many the great romance of modern times. We are witnessing the re-discovery of the last remaining undeveloped continent, with its vast human and natural resources. And those who by birth or domicile in the hitherto unknown continent have a grandstand view of the awakening of its peoples, have also a large stake and a vital interest in what is happening to-day: among them South Africans who by long familiarity with the challenging problems of Africa, should be playing a major role in the planning of the Continent's future development.

It is a commonplace to say that wise planning must be based on ascertainable facts; and it has become almost a commonplace to assert that so far as Africa is concerned, the facts have either not been ascertained, or, if known, are not readily available for the policy-makers. It is probably truer to say that a great deal of information about Africa does exist, but that until recently it has been scattered and unorganized among the records of the colonizing powers who alone were in a position to collect and collate facts, and base conclusions upon them.

To-day, if belatedly, the need for organizing information is at long last being recognized by almost all the major states and powers in Africa. In this number of *South African Libraries* we are printing two articles of importance on this subject. One is an authoritative account of the attempts to co-ordinate scientific and industrial research on an international basis, by Miss Hazel Mews, Head of the Library and Information Division of our own Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and a leading participant on behalf of our library profession

in the Conferences and projects so far undertaken by the body known as the C. S. A. The other is a short account of the aims of the Africa Library of the S. A. Institute of International Affairs, a non-political body setting out to provide the fullest possible information for researchers and policy-makers in all fields of African affairs north of the Union and south of the Sahara. We suspect that the work described in these two articles will be news to many library colleagues, and that those who read them will discover an increased interest and possibly an abiding desire to take a more positive share in the complex task of developing the coming continent of Africa.

For the ultimate problem is not one of conquering disease or the hazards of climate, but of evolving new human attitudes and relationships based on science and industrialism, which are the driving force in the world of the twentieth century. In a moderate and thoughtful article, Professor W. M. Macmillan¹ has referred to the "levelling, matter-of-fact frame of mind" which they induce, "so largely remote from the emotions of history", and to what he calls the peculiarities of the two much misunderstood regions (South Africa, and parts of West Africa), which distort a good many people's reading of the African picture as a whole. Referring to the European South Africans' approach to all African questions in the light of their centuries-long historical tradition, he suggests that the abnormal feature is not that there has been longer contact here than elsewhere but that this longer contact has tended to produce habits of mind that are out of touch with the realities of the situation as it now is: a gigantic and inescapable upheaval

¹ W. M. Macmillan, *African growing pains* (*African Affairs*, v. 52, July, 1953, p. 192).

of the old ways of life. It is precisely at this point that the librarians have a vital part to play, by making available on the widest possible scale the information on which public opinion must ultimately be based. For the task ahead, as Professor Macmillan rightly

points out, requires the concentrated efforts of men and women of all callings and of any and every race. Fact-finding and not fault-finding is the only workable basis for success in African as in domestic affairs.

IBADAN SEMINAR ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN AFRICA

AS STATED in the April 1953 number of *S. A. L.*, the Union of South Africa was one of nine member-states of Unesco invited to send participants to the International Seminar on Public Library development in Africa, which was held at the University College, Ibadan, Nigeria, from 27 July till 21 August 1953. The Council of the S. A. Library Association, through its Executive, offered its services to the Union Government as early as February, 1953, in connection with the selection of possible representatives and the compilation of memoranda on the subjects to be dealt with by the Seminar. It was not until June that the Association was informed of the decision

of the Cabinet "that no delegates must be sent by the Union of South Africa". No reason was given for this decision. The Union of South Africa, with its comparatively long experience of public library conditions in Africa, was therefore not represented at the Seminar. At least three senior librarians in Southern Africa had, however, already accepted invitations to prepare working papers for the Seminar in their private capacities. We hope to give an account of the proceedings and conclusions of the Seminar in a forthcoming number of *South African Libraries*.

BOOK REVIEW

Index to theses accepted for higher degrees in the universities of Great Britain and Ireland; vol. I, 1950-51; ed. by P. D. Record. London, *Aslib* (1953). xii, 157p. 25s.

This is the first volume of a new national bibliography of a much overlooked species of literature — overlooked for the most part because it is very largely unpublished. British universities in no case demand publication of theses written under their auspices. This useful work aims at being a complete list of all theses accepted in all the universities in the British Isles including the Republic of Ireland — twenty in all. It should be remembered that the English university colleges are mostly affiliated to the University of London. This issue contains 2182 titles, of which the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London comprise more than half. The items are classified by an ad hoc system more detailed for the sciences than the humanities, and one of which

it is difficult to understand the principle. There is however an excellent and considerable subject index as well as an author index. Within each subject authors are arranged by university — not in our view really necessary. In his preface the editor admits that, as inevitable in a work of this kind, the information had to be accepted as supplied by the universities and opportunity to check was rare — a circumstance in which subject placing is rather hazardous. He supplies a table showing conditions of availability for consultation and a foreword on British university theses has been contributed by Mr. J. H. P. Pafford, Goldsmiths' Librarian of London University. As Mr. Pafford remarks, special subject lists have been compiled in Great Britain in the past, but this is the first national endeavour. We hope it will do much to bring this valuable form of research literature to the notice of those who may benefit from it.

A. M. L. R.

THE CO-ORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INFORMATION SERVICES

by HAZEL MEWS

Head, Library and Information Division

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria

(Address delivered at the Johannesburg Conference, S. A. L. A., 23 September 1953)

IN THE EARLY days there was little or no co-ordination of scientific work between the various territories on the African continent south of the Sahara. There was some scientific work being done, however, because Africa, the skies above it and the vegetation that clothed it, attracted the scientific attention of many early travellers — for example, the Abbé de la Caille, who stayed in the Cape in the latter half of the eighteenth century for two years to make a star chart of the southern skies and to lay out an arc of the meridian — but the work was done by individuals and the results were sent back to the mother country in Europe for study.

With the growth of colonial settlements came the local organization of education, the establishment of scientific societies, of museums, and of universities, all paying some attention to science and many of them doing a great deal of pioneer work. Most of the attention of the local administrations was naturally directed to the solution of practical problems, and facilities were gradually made available for work in agriculture, in weather observation, in geological surveying, and in mining engineering. The solution of the bread and butter problems of each territory had perforce to occupy first place in its plans.

Many of the boundaries between the territories in Africa are artificial rather than natural and were brought into being by the historical chances of war and politics, but wider views of African scientific problems considered on geographical rather than territorial bases grew up in the minds of scientists and some statesmen through the years, and efforts towards closer collaboration in science in Africa were slowly gathering force. An early statement on the subject was made by General Smuts in his Rhodes Memorial lecture at Oxford in 1929,

in which he pointed out that nowhere were the problems of Africa being surveyed and assessed as a whole, but that different and often conflicting principles were being applied in the scientific, social and educational fields.

Following on General Smuts's plea, an African Research Survey was organized with the aid of Carnegie Corporation funds, and as a result of the work done by the Survey, Lord Hailey's *African Survey* was published in 1938, with the companion scientific volume by Dr. E. B. Worthington called *Science in Africa*.

At this juncture came the cataclysm of World War II, bringing to Africa greater isolation from European resources, with the consequent necessity for greater local self-reliance and in some cases the urgent need to assist Europe in certain fields.

This gave a great stimulus to organized science in all of the territories. It may be helpful to give here some brief and necessarily incomplete account of the main scientific institutions in each territory, or group of territories, round about the end of the war.

Belgian territories

In the European background of research in the Belgian Congo stand the Musée du Congo at Tervueren, founded in 1902, and l'Institut Royal Colonial Belge, founded in 1930.

In 1933 l'Institut National pour l'Etude Agronomique du Congo Belge (INEAC) was set up with the purpose of promoting the scientific development of agriculture in the Belgian Congo. It has Divisions covering botany, forestry, pedology, plant genetics, phytopathology, climatology, etc., and its chief centre of research is at Yangambi on the Equator. In addition it has 24 experimental stations in other districts.

Since the War, i.e. by a decree of 1st July, 1947, the Belgian Government set up l'Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale (IRSAC), administered by a Council of 24 under the chairmanship of the former Minister of Colonies, with the object of promoting and co-ordinating, particularly in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi, the study of the natural and biological sciences ("les sciences de l'homme et de la nature"). It has Commissions for all branches of research — nutrition, animal biology, plant physiology, pathology (human and animal), geology, hydrobiology, geophysics, meteorology and astronomy. IRSAC has also adopted the principle of establishing in the Congo an important library, including microfilm services.

French territories

The early pattern of scientific research in French territories followed the general one sketched in the early paragraphs of this paper. The Musée d'histoire naturelle de Paris was the great institution standing in the background as a support to local work. The usual local technical services followed the period of the individual workers, and then came the Colonial Pasteur Institutes devoted to medical problems.

Just before World War II, the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire (IFAN) was established in Dakar, with a most comprehensive programme of investigation, covering the fields of geography, physical environment, botany, zoology and animal biology, marine biology, oceanography and fisheries, hydro-biology, chemistry, prehistory and archaeology, history, "la machine humaine" (including physiology, nutrition, experimental psychology), "sciences humaines" (ethnography, religion, art, languages), protection of nature and, finally, documentation. The role of IFAN is intermediary between the scientific institutions of metropolitan France and the advance posts of research in the outer territories. Much attention has been given to documentation which the Director has described as "pièce maîtresse de l'édifice". The central library contains 21,000 volumes, together with 1,250 volumes of periodicals. It issued a *Liste des périodiques* in 1949-50 comprising ninety-two pages.

In 1943 the French government set up the Office de la Recherche Scientifique d'Outre-Mer (ORSOM) to co-ordinate scientific research in the French Union. Its plans include

training centres in Paris for scientific workers destined for field work in the territories, with networks of polyvalent research institutions in the territories themselves.

ORSOM established in 1946 l'Institut d'Etudes Centre-Africaines (ICA) at Brazzaville, which has a comprehensive programme for French Equatorial Africa comparable to IFAN's programme for French West Africa, covering oceanography, entomology, botany, biology, geophysics, pedology, sociology, ethnology, prehistory, etc. It has a Library and Documentation Section.

In Madagascar l'Institut de Recherche Scientifique à Madagascar (IRSM) is the chief organization.

Portuguese territories

Just before the War (in 1936) the Portuguese government set up the "Junta das Missões Geográficas e de Investigações Coloniais" and this remains the central committee for organizing scientific and technical research in Portugal's possessions. Under its aegis the following surveys in Africa are being made: hydrography (Cap Vert, Guinea, Angola, Moçambique), geography and cartography (Guinea, Angola, Moçambique), geology (Guinea, Angola, Moçambique), botany (Moçambique), zoology (Moçambique), forestry (Moçambique), fisheries (Angola), anthropology (Guinea and Moçambique).

The Portuguese African territories have museums performing scientific work and the usual meteorological and agricultural services, together with "Juntas" or autonomous public organizations doing research in cotton, coffee, cereals, etc. The Diamang (Diamond Company) of Angola runs its own research organization devoted to geology, prehistory, ethnography, etc.

Southern Rhodesia and the other territories of the Central African Federation

Co-ordination of research in Central Africa (i.e. S. Rhodesia, N. Rhodesia and Nyasaland) has long been under discussion and a Joint Research Committee is in being, with consultative standing committees, but lack of funds has limited its activities. Future plans must undoubtedly depend upon developments with regard to Central African Federation. At the moment there is a Central African Scientific Library in Salisbury, under the Central African Council, and for the past few years this Library has sent out a monthly *Digest of accessions*.

For the rest, research work is done on a small scale in each of the territories on its own immediate problems of agriculture, animal husbandry, meteorology, etc. There is a Tobacco Research Organization in Southern Rhodesia supported both by the government and the Rhodesia Tobacco Association, and with the aid of the State Lottery a small laboratory was built in Salisbury in 1942 for the study of malaria and shistosomiasis.

The Rhodes-Livingstone Institute in Northern Rhodesia (Lusaka) acts as a focus for research, particularly anthropological and social research, and has an extensive working library on those subjects.

Nyasaland has the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation's Station at Chikla, and its own Agricultural Research Station at Lilongwe.

Union of South Africa

The Union already had a network of agricultural experimental and research stations, including the famous Veterinary Research Laboratories at Onderstepoort; medicine and mining had also not been neglected. But the War showed the need for more intensive and co-ordinated research in pure science and in technology to help the Union's growing industries. By the Scientific Research Council Act of 1945 (No. 33, 1945) there was set up in Pretoria the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, corresponding roughly to the Departments or Councils of Scientific and Industrial Research (or whatever other nomenclature was chosen) set up in the other Dominions of the British Commonwealth after World War I. Under the aegis of this Council (henceforward in this paper abbreviated to C. S. I. R.) a group of national laboratories in Pretoria and Johannesburg was founded: these were the National Physical Laboratory, the National Chemical Research Laboratory, the National Building Research Institute, the National Institute for Personnel Research and the Telecommunications Laboratory. As evidence of the increasing interest in scientific documentation which had not only been given a gentle push but had been propelled right into the limelight by World War II, the Council set up a Library and Information Division in Pretoria planned not only to serve its own scientists but to act as a central scientific library and documentation service for the Union.

Connected with the C. S. I. R. is the

Industrial Research Association scheme whereby groups of industries with common problems establish representative research institutes which are subsidized. So far research institutes for leather, fishing, sugar milling, paint and wool textiles have been set up.

The South African Bureau of Standards was also constituted in 1945 by the Standards Act (No. 24, 1945).

South West Africa looks to the Union for scientific research and its administration makes a grant to the C. S. I. R.

United Kingdom territories in Africa

In 1940 the British Parliament passed the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and it was decided to make available for research a sum not exceeding £500,000 in any one year out of the funds provided under this Act. In 1945 this sum was increased to a maximum of one million pounds, and in 1949 to £2½ million. These sums were not available for Africa alone but for the whole of the Colonial Empire; nevertheless a very large share went to Africa, including 37 per cent of the total amount for work in East Africa.

The British policy has been to establish research institutions in Africa itself for most fields of research, but in fields where experienced workers are very scarce, such as medicine and sociology, missions have been sent out from the United Kingdom for varying lengths of time to study particular subjects. For certain special fields, again, it has been found best to send out a team working under the control of scientific authorities in the United Kingdom; thus a team of workers in insecticides was established for East Africa, supplemented by scientists in England, and both working under the aegis of the Colonial Insecticides Committee.

East Africa

There has for some time been a strong tendency in the British territories for science to be organized in sub-regions comprising groups of territories. Thus a good part of scientific research in East Africa is pooled under the East Africa High Commission, covering Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar, with a Scientific Secretary. The East African Malaria Unit comes under the EAHC, as does the Desert Locust Survey.

The biggest of the research organizations in

East Africa is the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization with Headquarters at Muguga, and smaller research organizations like the East African Veterinary Research Organization, East African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Reclamation and Research Organization, and East African Fisheries Research Organization.

East Africa also has an industrial research body, the East African Industrial Research Board under the East Africa High Commission which recently issued its tenth annual report (1952).

In 1949 the East Africa High Commission issued a union catalogue of *Scientific and Technical Periodicals held in the principal libraries of British East Africa, June, 1949*, listing the holdings of 54 libraries.

The important Library at Makerere College in Uganda has a collection of medical and scientific books and has received grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

West Africa

British territories in West Africa form four distinct geographical units which are separated from each other by non-British territories, so that co-operation is difficult, and the past development of science has been separate in each territory, the strongest links being those with the Colonial Office in England. In 1938, however, it was agreed that research in the major agricultural commodities should be allocated between the various Departments of Agriculture, Nigeria undertaking research into the oil palm for all the British West African territories, the Gold Coast being responsible for cocoa, and the Sierra Leone for rice.

After the war, in 1948, an enquiry was

undertaken into the general organization of agricultural and forestry research in these territories, and the establishment of a West African Agricultural and Forestry Research Organization, with headquarters at Ibadan (Nigeria) was approved by the West African Council, as was a West African Veterinary Research Organization with headquarters at Vom (Nigeria).

A general review of medical research in British West Africa was carried out by Prof. Macgrath of Liverpool, and it was subsequently arranged that the Sir Alfred Jones Laboratory at Freetown, which had been closed during the war, should specialize in the study of yaws, malaria and filarial infection, and that the Rockefeller Foundation at Freetown, now taken over by the British, should do virus research and take over the work of the Hot Climate Physiological Research station. In 1947 the West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research was established at Kaduna.

A general review of social research in the territories was carried out by Prof. Raymond Firth, and University College, Ibadan is now setting up an Institute of Social and Economic Research and the University College of the Gold Coast is setting up a School of African Studies.

A West African Building Research Institute is also being organized at Takoradi in the Gold Coast.

The Library of the University College at Ibadan, established in 1948, is being very rapidly expanded, with a large new building, photographic services, microfilm and micro-card readers and a highly qualified staff from overseas. Its accessions lists are received by the S.A. Library Association.

II

This was, very roughly, the position in Southern Africa at the end of World War II. The sub-continent is seen to be peppered with institutions referred to by strange combinations of letters of the alphabet in the fashion of the times, and these organizations are charged with the co-ordination and planning of scientific research in individual territories, or groups of territories under the aegis of a metropolitan

power, but there was still no approach to these problems on a genuinely African basis.

In October, 1949, however, a great impetus was given to scientific co-operation in Africa by the African Regional Scientific Conference held at the University of the Witwatersrand in October, 1949. It was attended by representative scientists from all the sub-regions south of the Sahara and these scientific workers them-

selves gave expression to their conviction as to the advantages of mutual assistance in all subjects. The Conference passed 53 resolutions, of which the first contained proposals for the establishment of a Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara. This recommendation was exhaustively discussed by the participating governments (Belgium, France, Portugal, Southern Rhodesia, Union of South Africa and the United Kingdom) and at a special meeting in London in May 1950, details were worked out for the establishment of the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara (C. S. A. for short, being the initial letters of its French name: Conseil Scientifique pour l'Afrique au Sud du Sahara). In June, 1951, another meeting was held in London and C. S. A.'s constitution was laid down, as also its relations with the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA) a much more official body, a commission on high government levels, which provides the executive machinery for achieving scientific and technical co-operation and which approves C. S. A.'s budgets on behalf of member governments.

The functions of C. S. A. are set out officially as follows:

- “(i) to act as Scientific Adviser to the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (hereinafter called the ‘C. C. T. A.’);
- (ii) to study of its own initiative or at the request of the C. C. T. A., what research projects of common interest could usefully be suggested to the Governments concerned and to institutes or agencies for research;
- (iii) to maintain close relations with the inter-Governmental scientific and technical Bureaux which exist or may be created in Africa and if so requested to assist them in every way possible;
- (iv) to encourage and establish contacts between research workers in the same or related scientific fields or in the same geographical regions;
- (v) to facilitate the exchange and movement of scientific workers between the different territories and countries concerned and, if so requested, to advise on their training;
- (vi) to collect and distribute as may be required reports and information of

general value concerning scientific workers, scientific equipment and specialist libraries, and to facilitate the use of such equipment and libraries;

- (vii) to suggest to the Governments concerned through the C. C. T. A. the convening of conferences of a scientific character and to facilitate meetings of groups of specialists.”

The present Chairman of C. S. A. is Dr. P. J. du Toit, F.R.S., former President of the C. S. I. R. and previously Director of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Laboratories. The Secretary-General is Dr. E. B. Worthington, formerly Scientific Secretary to the E. A. H. C. and author of *Science in Africa*. The headquarters are at present near Nairobi (P.O. Box 21, Kikuyu, Kenya) but it is planned to move them to a more central position in Africa (Bukava, Belgian Congo) before long. The two official languages of C. S. A. are French and English.

C. S. A. has appointed specialist consultants in various scientific fields and a co-ordinator of library and information services (the present writer). It has held the following conferences in Africa:

1950 Nairobi
1951 Dakar
1952 Costermansville

The 1953 conference is being planned for Madagascar.

The work of co-ordinating science in the sub-continent is a large task, but the C. S. A. has chosen certain priorities, which are as follows:

Surveys and maps (preparation of map lists).
Geology (proposed inter-African Bureau).
Zoology (proposed fauna research unit).
Hydrobiology and fisheries (meeting on inland waters).
Social studies (research into abilities of African peoples).
Technology (preparation of a library directory).

From the last item it may be seen that C. S. A. has paid early attention to library resources. Already at the 1949 Conference the following resolutions on library and information services had been passed:

“The Conference stresses the need for adequate library and information services,

active as well as passive, to serve the needs of scientists in Africa.

To this end the following measures are suggested :

- (1) the preparation of a directory of scientific, technical and medical libraries and documentation centres in Africa ;
- (2) the compilation of a unified list of the holdings of scientific and technical journals in African libraries ;
- (3) the setting up of a number of regional photographic units, mainly for the purpose of making single copies of articles from scientific journals ;
- (4) the compilation of collective catalogues on a local or regional basis to cover ultimately all principal scientific and technical libraries in Africa ;
- (5) exchanges (or visits) of staff between various African documentation centres."

In 1953 the C. S. A. issued the provisional text of its third publication (its first and second publications having been a descriptive brochure and its own first report). This third publication was the *Directory of scientific and technical libraries in Africa South of the Sahara*. It includes 186 libraries outside the Union of South Africa and 54 libraries within the Union, and is an extremely useful compilation to have in any library in this country. The Union section is based on a revision and regrouping of the *Directory of scientific, technical and medical libraries in the Union of South Africa* compiled

by Miss Krige and the present writer in 1949 and brought out at the time of the African Regional Scientific Conference.

The work of the first period of C. S. A.'s existence is described in its first report (Publication no. 2). Recently it has produced a list of coming scientific conferences in Africa or overseas, that are of interest to scientific workers on this Continent.

So far there has not been very much contact between scientific and technical libraries in the Union and the other C. S. A. territories, apart from some inter-library loans either through the State Library or direct, but there have been requests, particularly from Kenya, for copies of articles in scientific journals held in the Union, and, as a small gesture of co-operation, the C. S. I. R. Library and Information Division, after circulating its lists of duplicates for disposal to libraries in the Union, then sends these lists to the headquarters of C. S. A., which circulates them amongst the libraries of the other African territories. With airmail connexion with the metropolitan countries as fast and well organized as it is at present, it is only natural that many territories find it easier to get light-weight documentary material from Europe than from the smaller resources of the Union.

In this brief picture of Southern African science, one of the most heartening signs, at least to librarians, must assuredly be the way the realization of the need for good scientific information services is already manifesting itself in many quarters.

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THE BUILDING OF A NATIONAL DRAMA LIBRARY

by ELIZABETH LEVY, *Librarian, Bloemfontein Public Library*

IN APRIL 1936 the Bloemfontein Public Library initiated a new service of lending sets of plays to societies, for readings and productions. It was a small and insignificant service with a total stock of twelve sets of plays and a membership of three local societies, but to the Librarian, Miss Gladys Oppenheim, who planned and started it, it was more than just an additional local service; it was the beginning of a National Drama Library for South Africa. In a report to the Committee recommending that the service be initiated to meet the needs of local Play Reading and Dramatic Societies whose activities were hampered by the difficulty of obtaining several copies of the same play, Miss Oppenheim pointed out that there was no reason why Societies in other Free State towns, or even in other Provinces should not make use of the service. "Indeed", the report ends, "Bloemfontein Public Library may develop a service comparable with that of the British Drama League."

To-day something of that early vision has been realized. The Drama Library has a stock of 817 sets of plays; the 343 members come from the four Provinces of the Union, from the Protectorates, from Basutoland and from the two Rhodesias, from South West Africa and even from British East Africa and Central Africa. These members range from professional and semi-professional companies of players, through the firmly established repertory societies, the societies affiliated to churches, colleges and schools, to the small friendly groups meeting in houses to read, discuss and act plays; they come from big cities, from villages and from remote rural areas and all of them want plays and still more plays.

To return to the beginnings of the Drama Library. The Committee granted £5 a year to the new service for the purchase of plays and added cautiously "if any revenue be derived from Drama Library subscriptions such revenue shall be reserved for additions to Drama Library stock."

Subscriptions were fixed at an entrance fee of 5s. and an annual payment of either 25s. a year or 5s. for each set of plays borrowed. At the end of the first year the Librarian

reported proudly that in addition to payments from Free State societies which now numbered five, subscriptions were coming in from Kimberley, Brakpan, Middelburg (Cape) and Newcastle (Natal). Sixty sets of plays were available. Even with the added revenue from subscriptions the Drama Library could not keep pace with the demand for new titles; to keep the number of copies and consequently the price low, only plays with small casts were bought, and the original plan of a copy for each character in the play was abandoned in favour of the minimum number with which a reading was possible. New titles were obtained on appro. and there was much checking of exits and entrances to see which characters did not appear on the stage together and so could make do with shared copies, before the set was bought.

In 1938 came the first real milestone in the life of the Drama Library when, at the inaugural conference of the Federation of Amateur Theatrical Societies of Southern Africa, it offered its services as the official Library of the Federation and the offer was accepted. Societies affiliated to F. A. T. S. S. A. were admitted at a reduced annual subscription of £1, 7s. 6d. of which was paid by the individual member and 12s. 6d. of which was paid in the form of a subsidy from the Federation.

The appointment as the official Library of the Federation brought new members and more revenue from subscriptions. The Committee of the Library increased its vote for new plays to £24 a year and the Drama Library was all set for expansion when the second World War broke out. The Drama Library lost most of its original members as war work took the place of dramatic entertainments and one society after another went into recess. In 1940 the Library Committee was seriously considering closing down the Drama Library when two applications for membership came in from military camps. The closing was delayed and within a short time new groups began to spring up in military camps and hospitals, in naval centres and in S. A. W. A. S. entertainment units, with the result that membership increased rather than decreased

during the war years. The difficulty was to obtain plays; few were published and these few quickly went out of print. Losses from stock began to mount since many of the borrowers were men who were constantly being posted from one centre to another. The military authorities were generous about paying for lost copies but it was often impossible to obtain replacements and for the first time the Drama Library had more money than it could spend.

At the close of the war membership dwindled as military camps closed down but within a few months it revived as civilian interests were gathered up again and one by one Dramatic and Play reading societies started up again with new enthusiasm. 1946 found the Drama Library with a very scanty and dilapidated stock of plays and with 102 societies clamouring for sets.

In 1947 the Drama Library faced a crisis. The Bloemfontein Public Library was that year to become a free municipal library and had promised to plan its services with the utmost regard to economy. The Drama Library was increasing in popularity and needed time and money spent on it. The Library was understaffed and its book allowance only just adequate for the needs of its other departments. It did not seem fair to the ratepayers of Bloemfontein to divert funds to a service which was not local. The solution came in the form of an Adult Education grant of £200 a year for three years from the Department of Education, Arts and Science. With this money in hand and with the encouragement given by the Adult Education Commission report of 1946 which had stressed the importance of dramatic activities as a source of Adult Education and had praised the Bloemfontein Public Library's drama section, the Committee set to work to reorganize the service.

After consultation with the Department and with the members of the Drama Library it was decided not to reduce annual membership fees, which had remained unaltered since the inception of the service but to apply the whole of the grant to improving the service. It was agreed between the Department and the newly appointed Library Board that the Library should pay into its own general revenue the amount taken in subscriptions, together with £40 from the annual grant, to pay for the administration and staffing of the scheme, and

the remainder of the grant should be spent directly on the Drama Library.

An alcove was screened off and shelved for the Drama Library. 120 sets of new plays were ordered immediately and Afrikaans titles were included for the first time; older sets were checked and brought up to the full strength of one copy for each member of the cast and one for the producer; the rebinding of the older plays was planned to take place over a fairly lengthy period so that members would not be inconvenienced by the temporary withdrawal of a large number of sets at the same time. Simultaneously with the overhauling of stock a complete reorganization of the service took place. Mrs. Reitz was appointed as the first part time Drama Library assistant; the plays were catalogued and a basic list was prepared and sent to members, a double check system was put into effect, a reservation system, by which plays could be booked for a society well ahead was begun and the file of cuttings which had been started in 1944 but discontinued, was reopened.

The result of all this activity and of the increased stock was soon apparent. From 1947 to 1948 membership increased from 100 to 202 societies and the circulation of plays from 3,374 to 6,652 copies. The Drama Library was established and had come to stay!

Since 1947 the story of the Drama Library has been one of steady progress, shown by rising membership and circulation figures; unfortunately it has also been the story of an unending struggle to give a good service on an inadequate income. The subscriptions up to £200 together with an allowance from the grant (which has now been raised to £50) pays for the staffing and administration of the scheme. The remaining revenue from subscriptions, together with the annual grant pays in theory for all other aspects of the work. In practice however nearly all stationery and equipment and most of the postage are paid by the Library. It is only when the Drama needs special stationery, not in general use in the Library or when circulars or play lists have to be sent to all its members that the Drama Library account is charged with the expenditure. In 1949 when the period of the Drama Library's recurring Adult Education grant ended, the grant for 1949-50 was reduced to £150 and when the 1950-1 grant was further reduced to £100, it was necessary to increase

subscriptions to £2 a year with a reduction of £1. 2s. 6d. for Federation members. This was done reluctantly since its effect is to exclude small, struggling rural societies who have most to gain from dramatic activities and who can least afford to pay the subscription. The grants for 1951-2 and for 1952-3 were £250 and the Library is grateful to the Department for this generous increase. Subscriptions have however not been reduced since the rising cost of plays, binding and stationery has increased expenses and since, like any growing and vital service the Drama Library finds that its members make increased demands which call for an increased income.

We have been much helped by generous gifts: a complete set of books of costumes through the ages from the British Council, more than 1,000 copies of plays, many of them in sets, from the Johannesburg Repertory Playreading Society, and from the Port Elizabeth Play Reading Society a donation of £90. The greatest financial problem is that the Drama Library has no fixed income and cannot plan ahead. From the 31st of March each year until the grant for the following year is announced it is virtually without funds and no plays can be ordered or sent for binding. The subscriptions pay for the assistant's salary but no other liabilities can be incurred until the Library is sure that the grant will enable it to meet them.

While the main work remains the sending out of plays to its members, the Drama Library has gradually developed into a general information centre on matters connected with the Drama. We are asked to supply information about royalty fees, to trace little known plays, to give brief outlines of plots, to compile annotated lists of plays suitable for special occasions, to supply details of stage sets, of lighting, of props. We are expected to make tracings of historical costumes and to be able to solve all the problems that crop up in the course of a production, besides advising on the formation of societies and drafting constitutions and rules for new groups. Enquiries from non-members are as numerous as those from members and membership and circulation figures do not reflect the whole of the work.

The sending out of plays involves more than entering and making up the parcels. Some societies write when they want plays, others hold a regular monthly, fortnightly or weekly meeting and are sent plays automatically for

that date. A groan goes up when a society for whom the calendar has been marked throughout the year decides to meet every second Tuesday instead of every first Monday! We have to be constantly on the alert to tell societies if a play they have chosen by title is unsuitable for their particular group, to inform societies which are contemplating production, if a nearby society has already given a public performance of the same play. Each day brings a stream of telegrams and long distance calls to the Drama Library from societies who have left the choice of a play until the last moment, and from the Drama Library to societies who have retained a play beyond the date for which another member has reserved it. The ordering and cataloguing of the plays, the sending out of accession lists; subscription and postage accounts and reminder notices and the keeping of records and statistics all have to be fitted in. The work has become much too much for one part-time assistant.

We have been fortunate in that both Mrs. Reitz and her successor Miss Craddock, are trained library assistants, with a specialized knowledge of plays. There are compensations too, for our financial and staffing problems. The work is interesting and the relationship between the Drama Library and its members is a particularly intimate one. We have seen societies grow; we know their likes and dislikes and their individual difficulties. We remember that this society must have a play with more women than men in the cast, since their male membership is small, we remember that that one's strongest actor is middle-aged and a play centred round a young character is unsuitable; we sympathize with the society that tells us that their only possible producer has gone away; we rejoice with the society that sends a telegram reading "Successful production to crowded house last night". We probably know these Drama Library members whom we never, or seldom, see better than the members of the Lending Library who come day by day to fetch their own books. There is too, to make the work worth-while, a consciousness of the educational potentialities of dramatic activities, both for those who use them as a form of artistic self-expression by acting, producing and designing scenery and for those many who take a passive but no less important part as audiences.

In April 1953, just seventeen years after the

Drama Library was started the Board of the Library decided that its official title should be the National Drama Library. At the same time the Board is aware that a first class National service cannot be given on the present income of the Drama Library. In 1938, when the new little Drama Library was started, its founders dreamt of a day when the service would supply plays throughout South Africa; that dream has been realized and another has replaced it.

To-day we dream of a future in which the Drama Library will be truly national, financed by the government, able to maintain a supply of plays sufficient for the whole country's needs, able to build up a first-rate reference library and to employ an adequate and qualified staff and above all, able to offer its services free throughout the land to all those who ask for them.

PROVINSIALE BIBLIOTEEKDIENSTE, 1952

deur D. L. EHLERS

Assistent-biblioteekorganiseerder, Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens

Tien jaar gelede is die eerste Provinsiale Biblioteekorganiseerder in Suid-Afrika aangestel en wel in die Transvaal. Met dié aanstelling het inderdaad 'n nuwe bedeling in verband met plattelandse biblioteekdienste aangebreek. Dit is dus paslik om op hierdie tydstop die toestand oorsigtelik in oënskou te neem en te kyk hoe sake vandag staan.

Tien jaar gelede het slegs twee van die vier provinsies, nl. Transvaal en Kaapland die beginsel van vrye openbare biblioteke vir die platteland aanvaar. Vandag het alvier provinsies hierdie beginsel aanvaar en is hulle besig om dit in die praktyk uit te voer.

Die Transvaalse platteland is in agt streke verdeel; Oranje-Vrystaat in drie en Natal in drie. In aldie hierdie provinsies is die biblioteekdienste min of meer in volle werking. Dit word gemeen dat Kaapland in ongeveer 15 streekgebiede verdeel sal moet word. Op die oomblik word egter slegs twee streke bedien.

Die vernaamste statistiese gegewens wat die stand van ontwikkeling van die biblioteekdienste in die vier provinsies aandui, word in meegaande tabel verskaf. Dit is nie nodig om hier in besonderhede te verduidelik hoe die dienste funksioneer nie; dit is reeds voorheen in hierdie blad gedoen. Slegs 'n paar feite wat nie voorheen genoem, of nie voldoende beklemtoon is nie, word dus hier behandel.

Dis belangrik om te onthou dat die term *streekbiblioteekgebied* (regional library area) in Suid-Afrika nie heeltemal dieselfde is as in die buiteland nie. In Amerika byv. word so 'n gebied hoofsaaklik bepaal volgens die gesamentlike finansiële vermoë van die plaaslike owerhede daarin om 'n behoorlike biblioteekdiens in stand te hou. In Suid-Afrika, egter, waar die diens hoofsaaklik deur 'n hoër liggaam en nie deur die plaaslike owerhede binne elke streek gesamentlik gefinansier word nie, speel die finansiële aspek feitlik geen rol nie. In Suid-Afrika is so 'n gebied slegs 'n geografiese en administratiewe eenheid wat so groot is dat een streekbibliotekaris in staat sal wees om benewens al sy ander werk elke openbare biblioteek in die streek eenkeer per maand te besoek.

Provinsiale Biblioteekdienste: vergelykende statistieke vir die jaar 1952

	KAAP	O. V. S.	NATAL	TRANSVAAL
Aanvang van diens in :	1951	1950	1952	1945
	£	£	£	£
Begroting 1952-1953	30,000	27,000	49,000	98,185
Aantal streke bedien	2	3	3	8
Aantal biblioteke	27	67	20	62
Kleiner sentrums	82	78	60	441
Grootte van personeel	18	18	27	56
Plattelandse blanke bevolking . .	684,925	192,418	110,213	467,956
Ledetal: Totaal	15,178	32,137	11,778	91,677
Volwassenes	6,935	18,484	9,066	42,937
Kinders	8,243	13,653	2,712	48,738
Sirkulasie van boeke	296,523	709,312	568,308*	2,352,930
Afrikaans	221,265	410,304	64,116*	1,380,664
Engels	75,258	299,008	504,192*	972,266
Boekevoorraad	154,335	150,426	70,000	476,875

'n Ander eienaardigheid is die gebruik van die boekwa (library van) in Suid-Afrika. Oorsee word die tipe boekwa waarop die boeke op rakke uitgestal is, hoofsaaklik gebruik om boeke direk aan lesers uit te reik by bepaalde stilhou-plekke wat dan gereeld weekliks op dieselfde tyd besoek word. So 'n diens het egter prakties onuitvoerbaar geblyk te wees op die Suid-Afrikaanse platteland met sy lang afstande en dun verspreide bevolking. Hier word die boekwa dus gebruik om boeke van die streekbiblioteek na die openbare biblioteke en kleiner sentrums te neem. Aan die plaaslike komitees en ander belangstellendes op elke plek word dan die geleentheid gegee om uit die 2,000 tot 3,000 boeke wat op die boekwa uitgestal word, 'n aantal vir hulle eie biblioteek te kies terwyl die streekbibliotekaris byderhand is om inligting te verskaf en leiding te gee aangaande die keuse van die boeke. Die boeke wat gekies word, word dan in die plaaslike biblioteek geplaas waar die publiek dit kan kom leen. So word daar elke maand nuwe boeke in elke biblioteek geplaas en die ou en verslete boeke word verwyder.

Die keuse van die leser is egter nie beperk tot die boeke wat in sy biblioteek voorkom nie. Elke maand word 'n lys van die vernaamste boeke aangekoop vir die hele biblioteekdiens in die biblioteek geplaas en daaruit kan die leser enige boek aanvra deur slegs 'n eenvoudige kaartjie in te vul en te pos. Hy kan ook boeke aanvra wat nie op die lyste voorkom nie en hulle sal óf aangekoop en aan hom geleen word, óf vir hom by ander biblioteke in Suid-Afrika geleen word.

Die Kaapprovinsie is ongetwyfeld die provinsie wat die meeste probleme oplewer by die instelling van 'n biblioteekdiens. Nie alleen is dit geografies groter as die ander drie

* In Natal het die Provinsiale biblioteekdiens eers in Julie 1952 begin. Bostaande syfers is dus 'n beraming van die jaarlikse sirkulasie van boeke gebaseer op die syfers van Januarie 1953 wat aan skrywer hiervan verstrekk is.

provinsies saam nie, maar dit is besonder uitgestrek in 'n noordelike en oostelike rigting. Mafeking is byna net so ver van Kaapstad af as Johannesburg. Daarbenewens is daar 'n magdom van dorpieë waarvan die oorgrote meerderheid blanke bevolkings van minder as 1,000 het. Daar is ongeveer 250 plattelandse dorpe in die provinsie, op vyftig waarvan daar nog geen biblioteke is nie.

In Transvaal, Oranje-Vrystaat en Natal word slegs dorpe met blanke bevolkings van minder as 10,000 by die provinsiale biblioteekdienste ingesluit. Plekke met groter bevolkings word veronderstel om vir hulleself te sorg. Dit moet dus onthou word dat alle dorpe en stede op die Witwatersrand tussen Potchefstroom en Springs en ook Vereeniging en Pretoria buite die bestek van die Transvaalse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens val — vandaar dat slegs 62 openbare biblioteke bedien word.

In al die provinsies, met die uitsondering van die Kaap, word daar van plaaslike owerhede verwag om hulle deel by te dra tot die instandhouding van hulle biblioteke. In die Kaap dra die Provinsiale Administrasie egter tans alle koste en betaal dus die huur van dorpsbiblioteke en salarisse van dorpsbibliotekarisse op plekke waar die blanke bevolking minder as 15,000 of die gemengde bevolking minder as 50,000 is. Waar die bevolkings bogenoemde syfers te bowe gaan, word 'n subsidie van 50 persent op die uitgawes van sulke stede op 'n vry munisipale biblioteekdiens betaal mits die uitgawe nie 2 persent van die stad se inkomste uit belastinge oorskry nie. Op die oomblik val slegs Kaapstad, Port Elizabeth, Oos-Londen en Kimberley in hierdie groep, maar Uitenhage staan op die drumpel. Tot dusver het slegs Kaapstad van hierdie aanbod gebruik gemaak.

Kaapland is ook die enigste provinsie wat tot dusver deur middel van sy biblioteekdiens biblioteekfasiliteite aan nie-blankes op die platteland beskikbaar stel.

'n Kenmerk van die sirkulasie van boeke in al die provinsies behalwe Natal, is die groot aantal Afrikaanse boeke wat uitgeneem word. Oor die algemeen lees die kinders meer Afrikaanse boeke as die volwassenes. In die Kaapprovinsie lees die nie-blankes slegs sowat 15 persent Engels. Die sirkulasie van boeke per leser per jaar wissel van 21 tot 25 en hierdie syfer vergelyk goed met resultate wat in dergelike biblioteekdienste oorsee behaal word.

Vergelyking van biblioteekstatistieke is altyd gevaarlik omdat dit so maklik aanleiding tot verkeerde afleidings kan gee. Met die uitsondering van Transvaal, is die provinsiale biblioteekdienste in Suid-Afrika ook nog te jonk om met oorseese dienste vergelyk te word.

'n Ontleding van die syfers van die Transvaalse diens toon egter dat, alhoewel slegs sowat 20 persent van die blanke plattelandse bevolking lede van die biblioteekdiens is, die sirkulasie van boeke per jaar ongeveer vyf per kop van dieselfde bevolking is. Dit vergelyk op hierdie stadium gunstig met Engeland waar die gemiddelde 6 per kop van die bevolking is.

Uitgawe per kop van die blanke bevolking op biblioteekdienste is egter in Suid-Afrika veel hoër as in Engeland. Die Transvaal gee 4s. 2d. per kop van sy blanke bevolking uit op biblioteekdiens afgesien van die uitgawe van die plaaslike owerhede waarvan hierbo melding gemaak is. In Engeland is die syfer 4s.

Die toestand van plattelandse biblioteekdienste is dus allesins bemoedigend en dit kan verwag word dat in die volgende tien jaar nog groter vordering gemaak sal word as in die pas afgelope tien jaar.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBRARIES IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

XIX. KRUGERSDORP CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Compiled by S. J. KRITZINGER, Chief Government Librarian

IN THE LOCAL newspaper *The Krugersdorp Standard* of 1899, appeared an article deploring the fact that there was no public library or reading room in Krugersdorp, especially as there was a large reading public in the area. The Anglo-Boer War intervened and the next reference on record was in the *Standard* of May 30th, 1903, that there was a widespread feeling in the town that one of the crying needs of the hour was a public library.

In response to a request the local Health Board called a public meeting, at which a resolution was taken to establish a public library. A Committee of twelve members was elected. Two hundred pounds were received from public donations, and fifty pounds from Mr. A. B. Bailey. Annual grants of £60 and £100 were received respectively from the Health Board and the Government.

The public spirited Mr. Edwards placed two rooms at the disposal of the Library Committee, free of rental for three months. The Library was duly opened on February 9th, 1904 and all residents on the West Rand were eligible for membership. The subscription was thirty shillings per annum for the loan of one book at a time.

Miss R. Soundy was appointed Librarian at £15 per month. The Library was open to the public daily during the hours 1-2 p.m., 4-6 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. from Monday to Thursday only. Miss H. Martin, a teacher at the Grammar School was the honorary Secretary; to her goes a great deal of the credit for establishing the Public Library.

In 1908 the Town Council allotted a few rooms in the western section of the Town Hall to the Library Committee, which accommodation was free of rental. At this stage there were 3,247 books in the Library, the membership consisted of 156 and the revenue approached £400 per annum.

¹ Revised by the librarians of the respective libraries. See note in *S. African Libraries*, 13(4), 79, Apr. 1946.

In 1911 the Town Council considered a free library service; however it was resolved to increase its grant to £120 per annum on condition that:

- (i) The Council be represented on the Library Committee.
- (ii) Ratepayers be allowed to use books and periodicals in the Library (such reading matter was not to be taken away).
- (iii) All new books and books in demand were withheld for a certain period for the use of subscribing members only.

In 1915 the Library Committee again requested the Town Council to increase its grant as the Government Grant of £100 per annum had ceased. The Town Council then resolved to take over the Library and run it as a free Public Library as from 1st October, 1915. An Advisory Committee was appointed consisting of seven members, four of whom should be selected from among the members of the Council and three members from outside the Council. The first Advisory Library Committee of the Free Library consisted of Councillors Dr. W. Adam, W. G. Delport, J. Hoatson and G. Sauer, and the three members representing the borrowers were Messrs F. W. Lewis, E. Herbert and W. A. S. Ray.

Thus came into existence the first free library in the Transvaal. Any European person residing within the Municipal area of Krugersdorp was eligible for membership on making a deposit of 5s. per book.

Expansion of library services

Mrs. Champness (née Soundy) was appointed Librarian, her remuneration being £15 per month. In 1917 she resigned and Mrs. C. E. Gray was appointed in her stead.

In 1916 the Town Council applied to the Andrew Carnegie Trustees for a donation for the erection of a Library Building. A donation of £4,500 was granted and the present Krugersdorp Carnegie Public Library was completed



KRUGERSDORP CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

in 1920. The membership steadily increased from 140 original subscribers to 1,934 members in 1929.

In 1928 the Library Advisory Committee, with Mr. Strasheim as Chairman resolved to recommend to the Town Council that the Free Library be converted into a subscription library, controlled by a Library Committee. The Council put the proposal to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, who replied that the money for the Krugersdorp Carnegie Public Library Building had been granted on the understanding that the use of the Library should be free to the public.

After further discussions between the Advisory Committee and the Council it was resolved to follow the methods of the Benoni and Germiston Carnegie Libraries by placing non-fiction books free at the disposal of the public, but fiction readers were required to pay 10s. subscription per annum per book.

The subscription system for fiction came into force on July 1st 1930. The Teachers' Association and Handhawersbond sent in petitions that the resolutions regarding sub-

scriptions be rescinded, and the membership dropped from 1,934 to 156 within three years.

In 1933 Miss A. Giesken of the Johannesburg Public Library was appointed Librarian of the Krugersdorp Carnegie Library. The Library Committee resolved that:

- (i) The Librarian shall act as Secretary to the Library Committee.
- (ii) The staff become municipal employees in order to participate in pension facilities.
- (iii) Ratepayers, residents, and people employed within the municipal area to borrow fiction, which had been in the library for six months or more, on their deposit tickets.
- (iv) That library services be made available to children.
- (v) That a depôt be opened in West Krugersdorp and one in Lewisham.

Within a short period the membership exceeded 3,000.

In March 1937 Miss A. Giesken resigned owing to her marriage to Mr. H. E. Dommisie

and was succeeded by Miss M. W. Shilling, who had completed the course in librarianship at the London School of Librarianship. In March 1941 Miss Shilling married Dr. Hellman, and continued as Librarian until August 1942. Mrs. Dommissie was appointed Librarian in a temporary capacity, and still holds the position.

Building and organization

The Adult Lending Department, Reference Library, Reading Room and executive offices are accommodated in the Carnegie Library

Building with its extensions. The Central Children's Library, and binding department are accommodated in a converted house across the road from the Library. There are three Branch Libraries and three dépôts. The Sterkfontein Hospital has a mobile library service, the bus being supplied by the Hospital authorities. Two more branches and a mobile library are under consideration at present. Adult lending departments, reading rooms, childrens' lending departments and reference sections are features both of the Central Library and Branches.

The proposed new library building is on the Council's Loan programme, awaiting Provincial Treasury sanction

Membership

The membership of the Krugersdorp Carnegie Library totals 10,476 with a monthly average circulation of 23,862.

Staff

There are twelve full-time members and one part-time member on the staff and the salary grades are as follows:

Clerical Assistants	Matriculation	£210 × 30 — £250
Junior Library Assistants	Elementary certificate	£300 × 25 — £400
Branch Librarian and Senior Library Assistants	Intermediate certificate	£350 × 25 — £450
Sub-Librarian	Diploma	£450 × 25 — £550
Librarian	Diploma	£550 × 25 — £650

Librarians

1904 - 1917	Miss R. Soundy (later Mrs. Champness)
1917 - 1933	Mrs. C. E. Gray
1933 - 1937	Miss A. Giesken (later Mrs. Dommissie)
1937 - 1942	Miss M. W. Shilling (later Mrs. Hellman)
1942 -	Mrs. A. Dommissie (née Giesken)

LIBRARIANS IN THE BRITISH CIVIL SERVICE

"In the June, 1950 *Library Association Record* (p. 193) it was reported that the Librarian's Panel I of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants had been set up on a permanent basis. In 1951 the name was changed to Librarians' Group, I. P. C. S., but its functions remain the same and during the past three years the Group has been actively watching the interests of professional librarians in the Civil Service. Every opportunity has been and is being taken to press for the appointment of professional librarians in those Government Departments (now a minority) where they are not yet employed. Junior staff are

encouraged to sit for Library Association examinations; to this end, one-day revision courses, restricted to civil servants and arranged to deal with their special problems, are organized in connection with each series of L. A. examinations. A watch is also kept on Departments to ensure that students obtain the maximum training facilities available. The Institution of Professional Civil Servants is the officially recognized negotiating body for professional librarians in the Civil Service." (*Library Association Record*, February 1953, p. 44.)

'N BYDRAE TOT DIE TEORIE VAN DIE KLASSIFIKASIE

deur P. C. COETZEE

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DIE TITEL van Dr. Korevaar se werk¹ is trots sy lengte baie beskeie. Dit is nie 'n beskrywing van die sistematiese katalogus van een enkele inrigting nie maar 'n verhandeling oor die teorie van die bibliografiese sistematiek. Ook waar die skrywer in die tweede deel van die werk die sistematiek toegepas in die Delftse Tegniese Kollege ('n inrigting met universitêre status wat grade in Ingenieurswetenskap verleen) bespreek, is die behandeling illustratief. Dr. Korevaar se onderwerp is wat in Engeland en Amerika bekend staan as *Theory of the classification of books*, hoewel hy die katalografiese en bibliografiese sy, eerder as die plasingssorde van boeke op die rakke in gedagte het. Op die vasteland van Europa is die sistematiese katalogus oor die algemeen „magasynvry” terwyl dit in die Angelsaksiese lande (dus ook in die Unie) „magasyngebonde” is. In die V. S. A. vind ons tans ook baie voorstanders van die magasynvrye katalogus d.w.s. 'n katalogus waarin 'n ander klassifikasiesstelsel (of sistematiek) toegepas word (of dieselfde sistematiek anders toegepas word) as die waarvolgens die boeksignture (call numbers) bepaal word.

Enigeen wat 'n waardevolle bydrae tot die bibliografiese statistiek wil maak, moet aan minstens twee vereistes voldoen: hy moet filosofies geskoolde wees en hy moet ervaring hê van saakkatalogisering. Omtrent die ervarings van hierdie kwalifikasies kan daar wat Dr. Korevaar betref, geen twyfel wees nie. Omtrent sy akademiese agtergrond lei ek uit sy titels af dat hy 'n ingenieur is, maar sy geskryfte getuig van 'n lewendige belangstelling in die wysbegeerte en van meer as 'n lekekennis daarvan. Hy hou hom reeds lankal besig met die probleme van bibliografiese sistematiek en sy voordrag voor die Vlaamse Kongres voor Boek Biblioteeklewen in 1934 en sy artikels in *Biblioteeklewen* was besonder stimulerend. In hierdie boek gee hy veel breedvoeriger sy gerypte insigte oor die teorie van die sistematiek.

¹ Artikel-resensie van Dr. A. Korevaar se „Systematische catalogus van de Bibliotheek der Technische Hogeschool te Delft”, 1951.

Afrikaanse lektuur oor hierdie vakgebied ontbreek feitlik geheel-en-al en bygevolg sal Afrikaanse studente, en by name diegene wat 'n gevorderde studie van die terrein maak goed doen deur ernstige aandag aan Dr. Korevaar se werk te gee. Veel wat daarin voorkom sal verskil van die opvattinge wat in Suid-Afrikaanse biblioteekkringe ortodoks geword het. By die beoefening van 'n wetenskap gaan dit egter nie oor ortodoksie nie, maar oor waarheid, en om die rede behoort die werk as stimulant te kan dien om aandag te gee, nie aan leesstof wat vir 'n eksamen voorgeskryf is nie, maar aan die werklike probleme en aan die oplossings wat daarvoor voorgestel word.

Daar is veel in hierdie werk waarmee ek van harte saamstem, konklusies waartoe ek onafhanklik van die skrywer reeds gekom het. Maar daar is tenminste een punt waarop ek sterk van hom verskil, naamlik die betreffende die verhouding van sake (of dinge) en wetenskappe. Hierdie betrekking is een van die angelpunte van 'n teorie van bibliografiese sistematiek.

Myns insiens moet daar drie sfere onderskei word:

- (a) die sfeer van die werklikheid, wat moontlik 'n sisteem of struktuur kan wees;
- (b) die sfeer van kennis, bestaande uit voorstellinge, oordele en begrippe; dis 'n sfeer waarin die sistematiserende arbeid van die mens plaas vind;
- (c) die sfeer van die wetenskappe as kultuurvorme.

As die werklikheid 'n sisteem is (en daar is sekere oortuigende gronde vir so 'n opvatting) dan is dit 'n sisteem van dinge en wesenlikhede wat bestaan en sy eienskappe besit, onafhanklik daarvan of dit geken word of voorgestel word in 'n kennis-sisteem. Die betrekking tussen die kennissfeer en die werklikheidsfeer is dat dele van die werklikheid, objekte van kennis is en die waarnemings- en aanskouingsfondamente vir oordele en begrippe. Deur middel van ons oordele en begrippe kan ons 'n beeld van werklikheidsgebiede vorm waarin die kennis-objekte

in 'n kennissisteem gerangskik is op grond van klassebetrekkings, afhanklikheidsbetrekkings, deel-geheelbetrekkings en ander. Die suiwer wysgerige sistematiekteorie hou hom met hierdie sfeer besig en Dr. Korevaar se „Saak-sisteem”: „Schepper — geest — natuurmens — maatschappij”, is 'n sisteem van die aard. Hy sê tereg dat hierdie skema sou kon dien as 'n leidraad vir 'n „système à la Trebst”. Kenmerkend van Trebst is dat hy die plek van enige saakbegrip in sy sisteem sou wil laat bepaal deur 'n definisie in terme van genus en spesies, d.w.s. deur klassevorming.

Nou skyn Dr. Korevaar te veronderstel dat daar 'n korrelasie sou bestaan tussen 'n sisteem van saakbegrippe, en 'n sisteem van wetenskappe, d.w.s. die soort betrekking waarin daar by twee reekse vir elke lid van reeks A 'n ooreenstemmende of beantwoordende lid in reeks B voorkom. So 'n betrekking bestaan daar ongelukkig nie en die rede daarvoor is: dat die wetenskaplike deurvorsing van die werklikheid nie stelselmatig volgens 'n voorafgaande logiese gebiedsverdeling gegaan het nie. Die bestaande grensafbakening tussen die wetenskappe is die resultaat van 'n historiese groeiproses waarin toevallighede 'n geweldige rol gespeel het. Die wetenskappe as kultuurvorme dra o.a. die stempel van tallose geslagte van geleerdes met hulle eie belangstellingsrigtings, hulle eie teoretiese en metodiese vooroordele en hulle eie dink- en arbeidsmetodes. 'n Wetenskap is nie uitsluitlik 'n sisteem van kennis nie, dit is ook 'n bedryf met sy eie tradisies, waarmee 'n sisteem van sake en begrippe nie rekening kan hou nie.

Vergelyk ons 'n sisteem van saakbegrippe met 'n sisteem van wetenskappe dan blyk dit dat die wetenskapsinhoud oorvleuelings en leemtes toon. As ons die inhoud van 'n saak-

sisteem onder wetenskappe verdeel dan kry ons 'n heeltemal kunsmatige konstruksie waarin elke wetenskap deel van sy objekgebied verloor en daar nuwe „wetenskappe” uitgevind word (vgl. Bentham se sistematiek).

'n Biblioteek wat soos 'n vakbiblioteek of universiteitsbiblioteek die wetenskapsbedryf moet dien, kan hom nie losmaak van die wetenskappe as kultuurvorme nie. Die grootste beswaar teen die D. D. K. en die U. D. K. is juis dat hulle wat hulle hoofrubrieke betref, so los staan van die wetenskapsbedryf.

Neem ons 'n sisteem van wetenskappe aan as die basis of primêre dimensie van ons sistematiek, dan ontstaan die probleem van hoe die saakbegrippe of objektesgrippe as 'n tweede dimensie in die sistematiek in te voeg. Dit is juis op hierdie punt wat Dr. Korevaar sy belangrikste bydrae tot die teorie van die sistematiek lewer, in die vorm van die teorie van „eigen en vreemde gezichtspunten” (pp. 19 en 37-40). „Gesigspunte” is vir Dr. Korevaar wetenskappe as kennissisteme en voorwetenskaplike, gedeeltelik gesistematiseerde, kennis-inhoude.

Terwyl ek nie met hom saamstem nie dat „ding en gezichtspunt in zeker opzicht verwisselbaar” is, wil ek toegee dat mens 'n onderskeid kan maak tussen primêre objekte van studie van 'n wetenskap en sekondêre objekte en wel in die sin dat die sekondêre objekte bestudeer word terwille van die betrekkings wat hulle met die primêre objekte het. Deur hierdie beginsel toe te pas sou ons 'n onbetwisbare tuiste vir baie saakbegrippe onder wetenskapsvorme kan vind. Verdere ondersoek in hierdie rigting sal vrugte afwerp sowel vir die opsteller van 'n sistematiek as vir die saakkatalograaf wat 'n sistematiek toepas.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

THERE ARE SOME striking references to the potentialities of libraries in the Report of the Carr-Saunders Commission on Higher Education for Africans in Central Africa (Central African Council, Salisbury, 1953). Commenting on existing educational facilities for Africans in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, the report draws special attention to one deficiency in the school system: the inadequacy of school library facilities throughout the now Federated territories. The Commissioners strongly recommend the provision of better school libraries, teachers' circulating libraries, book-box schemes, the establishment of

Publications Bureaux, and the building-up of a public library system.

Referring to the proposed Central African University, which they recommend as an inter-racial institution, the Report gives the Library first priority in the list of building desiderata for academic accommodation. "Both in siting and in structure the Library should be the dominating feature of the College both in the early stages and when fully developed. It is at the heart of a university as a centre of learning, and will have symbolic importance both to the university community and to those outside."

THOUGHTS ON PLANNING A NEW CATALOGUE

by E. E. BURKE

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CATALOGUING has acquired an established status since its niceties were dissected by the Commission appointed to enquire into the activities of the British Museum. It is over a century since the battle of the rules was fought through the rooms of the Museum library and there is now much precedent to guide or confuse. Nothing however has changed the essentials as defined by Edward Edwards, that the catalogue should be "well constructed, well kept up with the growth of the collection and thoroughly at the command of its frequenters".

The library of the Central African Archives was commenced in 1936 with the fortunate acquisition of the Hiller Loan Collection, but the war years hindered its natural development. A catalogue on conservative bibliographical principles had been envisaged from the beginning but it was not possible to make a start until 1947. To put the task in its proper perspective it is necessary to understand something of the working of the Central African Archives. Its essential task is the preservation of the Public Records of all three territories and the library is primarily intended for the convenience of those using the Public Records.

At the Public Record Office it is possible to refer the enquirer to any one of a number of rich libraries in London for his printed sources, but in Central Africa there is a vacuum in this respect which the library of the Department is designed to fill. One aspect of the vacuum is the absence of any library charged with the preservation of the literature of the country, of the products of its printing presses and of its authors, and of the material published elsewhere concerning it. This function, too, has devolved through compulsory deposit legislated in Southern Rhodesia in 1938 and in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1947.

Works relating to Central Africa form the core, and here an attempt has been made to make the collection exhaustive, particularly in Government publications. Beyond the core the completeness diminishes — South Africa, with many matters of common interest with Central

Africa and from whose history that of Southern Rhodesia springs, must be more fully represented than Angola or the Belgian Congo. So far a firm principle has been adopted — every book which throws light on any aspect of life in Central Africa should be included. In addition there must be books of a general reference nature to act as tools in the use of the main collections.

The acquisition of the Hiller Loan Collection established an early richness in rare missionary publications and cyclostyled newspapers and from this, by gift, purchase and the operation of the compulsory deposit legislation the library has grown to a total of some 35,000 items.

The stock conveniently divides into general, government, missionary and periodical publications. The first ranges through all the gamut of subjects which can be applied to Central Africa — historical, topographical, scientific, economic and political and in date from 16th Century Portuguese works with contemporary accounts of the Monomotapa's country to pro- and anti-Federation pamphlets.

The collection of publications of the three Central African territories is practically complete and yet when the Archives was established it was hard to find even a full set of the *Southern Rhodesia Gazette*, and the Departments themselves could not produce files of their own reports. It was only recently that the file of the *Nyasaland Government Gazette*, which, as the *British Central Africa Gazette*, was born in 1894, was completed. The set is the result of a compilation from five sources spread over thirteen years.

The missionary collection contains much that is rare. From the nature of mission work it was often vitally necessary, as a first task, to provide an orthography for the vernacular; hence it is in the products of mission presses that the birth of many written languages can be found. The missionaries blazed many early trails and, being in the necessity of reporting regularly to their governing bodies, have left much raw material for historical study.

The newspapers and periodicals include,

beside those published in the territories, sets of many journals and proceedings of overseas societies with special African interests and it is in these particularly that the catalogue is bringing out unexpected resources.

Obviously much of the material in the library, as in any library, is available elsewhere and is well known through existing African bibliographies. The publications emanating from the presses of the three territories are, on the other hand, an almost uncharted field and here there is pioneer work to be done. Then, too, analysis of well-known periodicals and proceedings for purely Central African subjects is very scanty and sparse. A general bibliography for the Rhodesias and Nyasaland has been an objective since the inception of the Archives but its realization must be a very protracted affair. The conception however has been much to the fore in determining cataloguing policy.

Early discussions produced the following directives:

- (a) That the library was one of permanent record — thus the catalogue must from its commencement be such as to avoid the need of any subsequent recasting; it must be durable and each decision well tested; the entries to be full rather than abbreviated.
- (b) That no satisfactory classification scheme for the material was available — hence a classified catalogue was barred unless a scheme was first worked out. The magnitude of this task with the probability of many subsequent changes was too large to accept.
- (c) That the possibility of an eventual comprehensive bibliography must be borne in mind and that towards this there must be many analyticals.

All factors led to the adoption of a full dictionary catalogue but with economy in the use of title entries. The future will test its wisdom but in the light of the present the choice seems a proper one.

The mechanics of the catalogue had next consideration. Existing equipment provided a card of 6" × 4" instead of the usual 5" × 3" and this was gladly accepted for the more generous spacing and clarity made possible, and for the avoidance of continuation cards. It has obvious repercussions in the size of the cabinets necessary but the user undoubtedly

benefits by easier handling. To one accustomed to the larger size the standard 5" × 3" now seems uncomfortably small.

Subsequently, as expansion of the existing cabinets became necessary, a design was worked out in conjunction with the Public Works Department in Salisbury. This provided a set of 33 drawers in three horizontal rows of 11. The drawers are tilted at a convenient slope above shelved cupboards with the bottom row of drawers at table height. Now that the prototype has been constructed it will be an easy matter to add similar cabinets as necessary.

Next thought was given to the purely clerical processes. For the sake of speed in the technical part of cataloguing the unit card system seemed to offer advantage. A draft card is written by the cataloguer with additional author and subject headings noted on the back. This, after checking, goes to the typist who produces the appropriate number of cards. When these have been checked the tracings are noted on the main entry card, all are filed, and, in turn, the filing is checked.

Emphasis has been placed on the necessity of checking throughout in order to preserve a high standard of accuracy, for it is intended, if a bibliography is compiled, to take as much from the catalogue as possible without further reference to the books themselves.

There were yet two matters for determination before a start could be made, and these the most important; the rules for the author entries and a list of subject headings. No attempt was made to work out either *in toto*; instead the Anglo-American code was accepted for the former and the Library of Congress list as basis for the latter.

Neither was taken completely on trust but as a basis on which, as each rule or heading was called into play with the progress of the cataloguing, its suitability could be assessed. Thus in time the library's own codes, suited for its own special requirements, will evolve.

Variations from the Anglo-American Code are comparatively few and are mostly directed to simplicity. The author's name is given in the fullest form ever used by him in any of his works, e.g.

SELOUS, Frederick Courteney
JOHNSON, Sir Frank
JOHNSTON, Sir Harry H

though a diminutive is expanded, e.g. "Fred. S. Arnot" becomes "ARNOT, Frederick S" unless the expansion is doubtful. Initials are expanded where necessary to distinguish between two individuals. This method saves considerable research into Christian names but is slightly offset by the occasional need to alter all the previous cards for an author when his newest book gives "John William" in place of an earlier "J. William".

Again entries under an illustrator are omitted unless he is really important; single treaties to which Southern Rhodesia is a party have their main entries in the form "SOUTHERN RHODESIA. Treaties. 1915" and not under the party firstnamed on the titlepage; the scope of the rule concerning institutions whose names begin with a proper noun or adjective is extended to cover all institutions whose names are distinctive; and added entries under the editors of series are omitted.

The collation follows the usual form except that the pagination quotes that actually printed in the book, e.g. a volume which is bibliographically "[ii], x, 491, [iv]" is stated as "x, 491". Illustrations follow the general rule but it has been found necessary to amplify the usual definitions of the components; thus an illustration is anything incorporated in the body of the text as are many diagrams and tables, and a plate is not confined to a printing in which one side of the leaf has been left blank. Size is quoted in inches, to the nearest quarter, instead of centimetres as this has more meaning to the average user. Most people can visualize 6½ inches, few 16 centimetres.

Where the Code offers alternatives between a British and an American practice it has generally been found desirable to take the latter; in the rule for entry of Princes of the blood the American version places the main entry under "WINDSOR, *Prince Edward Albert, Duke of*" rather than under "EDWARD, *Prince of Wales, afterwards EDWARD VIII, King of England, afterwards Duke of Windsor*". Again in the case of changed names the latest form is preferred with its consequent implications in the case of married women and in the names of periodicals. The Archives rule reads

Periodicals. Enter under the latest title. Where the change of name is drastic and where a new volume numbering is used

after the change catalogue each separately using notes to refer from old to new and from new to old titles."

An interleaved copy of the Code is used for the recording of all variations and series as the library's own manual. Where expansion of a rule seems desirable much has been gained from the A. L. A. translation of the Vatican Code, which is particularly helpful on the treatment of religious publications.

The choice of subject headings has proved a more difficult concept than a rather arbitrary choice of rules for author entry. The Anglo-American code with the help of the Vatican expansion covers most eventualities but a far more critical spirit was needed in the application of the Library of Congress list. Americanisms had to be discarded where they occurred in meaning or in spelling; amplification of, for example, the names of Bantu tribes and languages has given rise to a supplementary list of considerable size. The subdivision of Central African history proves extensive and the references explore a new field.

One of the first decisions necessary was the use of such terms as "East Africa", "Central Africa" and "South Africa" in subject headings and geographical sub-divisions. The fancy of authors has placed Central Africa at anywhere from the Sahara to the Orange River but for this catalogue it comprises the Rhodesias, Nyasaland, Angola, the Belgian Congo and Mozambique. East Africa is a region from Ethiopia to Tanganyika, South Africa is the Union, including South-West Africa, together with the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The application of this is apparent in the cataloguing of a recent book with the title *Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa*. In fact it falls within

BIRDS — East Africa
and BIRDS — Central Africa.

A book of travel in Southern Rhodesia and Mozambique is entered under each country but if it extends to Nyasaland as well it falls under "CENTRAL AFRICA — Travel and description". Wherever possible an effort is made to localize the entry; thus the two headings "UMTALI (*District, Southern Rhodesia*)" and "MANICA AND SOFALA (*Province, Mozambique*)" would be preferred to "SOUTHERN RHODESIA — Travel and description" and "MOZAMBIQUE — Travel and description" if the book could be so limited.

The names of places chosen are those given on the standard surveys published by the countries concerned, except that in foreign territories if there is a well known English equivalent this is taken instead, e.g. MOZAMBIQUE rather than MOÇAMBIQUE.

Double entry has been practised frequently to bring all material with a place connexion under the name of that place as well as under the topic.

The treatment of native races raised a number of problems. There are many topics duplicated in this application to European and African elements of the community which must be kept separate in the headings. Thus "SOUTHERN RHODESIA — Economic conditions" is a general head covering the economic status of the country but there are many works which concern only that of its African population — for these the title chosen is "NATIVE RACES — Economic conditions, *Southern Rhodesia*" with, of course, suitable cross references.

"NATIVE RACES" has been taken as a group term for all material concerning the African other than that falling under the name of a particular tribe. There are two filing sequences, first a long series of geographical subdivisions such as

NATIVE RACES — Nyasaland Protectorate

NATIVE RACES — Tanganyika Territory

NATIVE RACES — Uganda Protectorate

with, from each, references to the names of the tribes of each country under which material exists, and here come the general ethnological works. Following this sequence are subdivisions of a different nature, thus

NATIVE RACES — Biography

" " — Chiefs and rulers

" " — Children

NATIVE RACES — Employment

" " — Social conditions

sub-divided geographically as necessary.

Some research has gone into the selection of the names of tribes and generally the root name has been taken. An effort has also been made to link older names with the modern equivalent.

BWILE not BENA KABWILI

NGONI not ANGONI

USHI not AUSHI

WISA not VISA or BISA

KARANGA not MAKALANGA or
MAKALAKA.

It is not peculiar to Rhodesian history that there is a great and mysterious gap between its prehistoric antiquities and its historic ones. The term "protohistory" has been taken on the authority of the archaeologists to cover the period between the close of the Stone Age and the commencement of written record. It is under this term that the various ruin cultures extending up to the 19th Century fall, and "SOUTHERN RHODESIA — Protohistory" leads from the general literature on the origin of the Zimbabwe peoples to the particular consideration of individual ruin sites.

There have been many similar problems suggested by a new field in detailed cataloguing and many more remain for attention as particular sections of the collections come forward for cataloguing. Decisions and appropriate references have been recorded in a list which may one day perhaps be usefully published.

So far the whole of the general collection has been completed and a third of the serials have been adequately analysed. The future holds much of interest; the government publications, the early vernacular pamphlets, the work of the mission presses, and the newspapers yet remain. It will take a long time but it is hoped that the work will be abiding.

HOSPITALITY FOR VISITING LIBRARIANS IN NEW YORK

The Hon. Secretary of the S.A. Library Association has received a letter from the Chairman of the Hospitality Committee of the New York Library Club, offering to plan a profitable use of time for any South African librarians who may be visiting the United States, and to make arrangements for them to meet their American colleagues. The Club is

composed of public, college, university school and special librarians in the Greater New York area. It is suggested that any South African librarians intending to visit the United States should inform the Hon. Secretary of our Association, who will put them directly in touch with the New York Library Club.

THE UITENHAGE READING SOCIETY AND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Some historical notes

by H. W. SHAW

UITENHAGE has been well served in its cultural institutions, from the earliest days of the existence of the town, for we find, among those who served on the committees of the Uitenhage Reading Society and the Uitenhage Public Library, ministers of religion, doctors, schoolmasters, public officials, businessmen, and sometimes the ordinary man-in-the-street.

The name of the Rev. Alexander Smith (the first Minister to preside over the Kerkraad) appears among the first Presidents of the Uitenhage Reading Society in 1836; he signed the Minutes until February 1841, when the records of the Uitenhage Reading Society come to an end. Committee meetings were held at six-monthly intervals and as many as 61 books were ordered at a time — the orders being sent direct to J. M. Richardson Esq., Cornhill, London, with a request that they be shipped out by the first boat, and then be sent by ship from Table Bay to Port Elizabeth.

They had the usual troubles even in those days. One subscriber was fined double the cost of a book he had lost. But when he produced the book months later, the fine was reduced to 2s. 6d.

In March 1838 a reward of 5 Rix Dollars was offered for the detection of the person who defaced and tore the first volumes of "Combe's Chronology". Another was fined 10s. for keeping sundry books beyond the time limit. Dr. Younger was fined 6½d. for removing a newspaper before the time allowed.

The collecting of subscriptions was a real difficulty, so it was decided, in June 1839, to place "a list of subscribers in the Reading Room every six months, with columns exhibiting subscriptions due and those paid".

In 1840 it was resolved that the books and papers be locked up, and a Mr Vogel tendered for the work of making folding doors to the shelves, for the sum of 30 rix dollars. This was accepted. At the next meeting, an amendment was moved that this be not confirmed. The

amendment was carried. The Secretary resigned and left the room.

The record comes to an end on 8 February 1841.

A gap of 45 years in the Minute Books here deprives us, no doubt, of some very interesting developments. We can find certain facts and figures in "Uitenhage past and present"

Founding of the public library

The Minute Book dating from 30th March, 1886, has a page which states: date of establishment, 1858; number of volumes, 2128.

It would appear that the old Library originally stood on the site now occupied by the Criterion Hotel in Caledon Street, a most unpretentious little building. About this time (1875) an agitation was afoot for a proper Town Hall. It was decided to build a Town Hall to include a Public Library and Market Offices. Permission was given to sell the small library building and the piece of land in Caledon Street, and the proceeds of £375 were devoted to the fund for the erection of the Town Hall. This and other arrangements were subject to the Municipality obtaining an Act of Parliament to legalize them. As a "quid pro quo", the Council placed at the disposal of the library committee a room in the new building, on the right of the Market Street entrance. This arrangement continued until 1903, when, on the opening of the new library building in Caledon Street, the Council paid back the £375 received in 1880 for the plot of land that had been sold in order to swell the Town Hall funds.

The opening of the Town Hall — and we must presume the Library as well — took place on the 7th August 1882. The Hall having been officially declared open and dedicated to the use of the public of Uitenhage, both for Municipal and Library purposes, a grand banquet was held in the Assembly Room, and in the evening a Grand Ball was held, also in the Assembly Room. Some 300 people were

present when supper was served in the Library. The festivities lasted for 3 days — not entirely in honour of the Library!

The inauguration of the new Library and Reading Room in the Town Hall on the 15th August 1882 was made the occasion of an interesting lecture on the subject of "Books and their power" by Mr. John Tudhope.

In order to increase Library funds, it was suggested, in March, 1886, that lectures be given in the Library. These lectures were duly given in 1890 and were announced by "boys" distributing handbills, and with the aid of a bell. The first lecture produced a deficit of £1. 10s. 0d. and the second a profit of £1. 15s. 0d.

It is recorded that in 1883 books ordered took 4 months to arrive in Uitenhage, and on one occasion a parcel of books was taken on to Natal by the boat.

New library building

About this time, February, 1894, discussions began with a view to building a new library. The Town Council was approached to ascertain if it would be prepared to take over the room and refund the sum realised from the sale of the old Library Property in Caledon Street. The Council replied that it required more information with regard to the building plans.

April, 1898 saw the appointment of a sub-Committee to find a suitable site for the Library. Application was made to the Cape Government to place £750 on its estimates in accordance with a promise made by Sir Gordon Sprigg.

A sale of land in the Estate of Newcombe was held and on the 9th of January, 1900, Mr. H. J. Ruddle bought the present site, on behalf of the library, for £475. This was approved at the Annual General Meeting on the 31st January, 1900, and Mr. Ruddle, the Rev. T. Roper, and the Secretary (Mr. W. Duncan) were thanked for their work in purchasing the site. Two Trustees were appointed (the Chairman and the Secretary, for the time being), and Mr. MacPherson and Mr. Nicholl were appointed sureties with the trustees, to complete the purchase of the site. The gaiety of the town must have been enlivened when this vacant library site was let on Saturday evening for auctions, at 50s. per night.

A gap in the records from 1902 to 1906 is particularly regretted for it was during this period that the new library in Caledon Street

was built. In "Uitenhage past and present" it is stated that the new building was erected by Mr. A. Gillespie at a cost of £1,500.

Bookstock and organization

At this time (1903) the number of books in stock was: Biography, 438; history, 453; science and art, 202; religion, 131; poetry and drama, 163; travel and geography, 395; miscellaneous, 361; reference, 671; fiction, 3,556. Total: 6,370. (The total number on the shelves in 1953 is approximately 19,000).

The first suggestion that a card catalogue be installed was made in 1912, but was not again seriously considered until 1934, when the Secretary was instructed to obtain costs of the material and labour involved. It was not until 1949 that the matter was finally tackled, and after much arduous work of recataloguing the new system was introduced early in 1952.

Subsequent history

Successive committees have been constantly concerned with the need for additional accommodation. An Extension Fund was gradually built up, and in February, 1940 it stood at £1,250. Although architects were commissioned to prepare plans and specifications for a new building altogether, and tenders were finally presented to the Annual General Meeting of subscribers in 1951, it was found that the rise in building costs had outrun the resources of the Fund, and the library still awaits a new and modern home.

Membership of the library

It was stated in February 1887 that there were 57 subscribers, but that to balance accounts no books were purchased in that year. We have progressed since then: the 1952 membership shows a total of 616.

Financial resources

Grants have been made regularly to the Library by the Town Council since 1889; in that year, the grant was £10 — to-day the Library received £50 per annum from this source. In 1890 the Divisional Council made a grant of £10, but this subsequently lapsed. The Library now enjoys a generous grant from the Cape Provincial Administration, amounting to £337 10s. 0d. per annum.

Some notable library supporters

As in the case of many other long-established Cape libraries, individual members of the

library have contributed long and notable service in its cause. One member in particular deserves to be remembered. He is Mr. J. G. Nicholl, who figured prominently in all library activities in Uitenhage for more than half a century. Mr. James Gibb, also a member of the library for 50 years, and Secretary for 20 years, retired from that office through ill-health in 1943. Another benefactor was Dr. Vanes, who gave many valuable books to the library in his lifetime, and made provision in his will for an annuity to be paid to the library.

Among others who should be mentioned in

this record is Miss Dobson, who served as a very efficient librarian for no less than 32 years.

The future of Uitenhage Library

As this article has attempted to show, the Uitenhage Public Library has a tradition which was founded more than a century ago. Comparatively little is known of the early period of its history, but enough has been said to show that there has been a continuous record of service by successive library committees and librarians, which we hope will continue for many years to come.

BOEKRESENSIE

„Gedenkboek ter Gelegenheid van het Veertig-jarig bestaan van de Nederlandse Vereniging van Bibliothecarissen, 1912 - 12 Juni - 1952.” (Uitgegeef te 's-Gravenhage deur die Uitgeversfonds der Bibliotheekvereniging, 1952.)

Soos ons eie S.A. Biblioteekvereniging by die herdenking van sy 21-jarige bestaan die „S.-A. Biblioteekvereniging-Handboek” uitgegee het, het die „Nederlandse Vereniging van Bibliothecarissen” sy 40-jarige bestaan met sy „Gedenkboek” herdenk. Hieruit is baie te haal wat van belang is en anders as in die geval van ons Handboek is daar min wat spoedig verouderd sal raak.

Hierdie Gedenkboek probeer 'n skets gee van die lewe en strewe van die N.V.B. en nie alleen aan sy lede nie, maar ook aan die buitewêreld en die publiek: „De bibliotheek is er voor het publiek, het werk van de bibliothecaris is werk in dienst van de gemeenschap. Tenslotte zijn het niet de bibliothecarissen die de bibliotheken maken, maar de geestelijke behoeften en de daad-werkelijke belangstelling van de bezoekers. Omdat wij geloven in de zin van ons werk, omdat wij dit werk liefhebben, voelen wij ons gedrongen er in 't openbaar rekenschap van af te leggen.” Hierin is sonder twyfel 'n groot waarheid in opgesluit: Ons behoort daar meer ag op te slaan.

Die Gedenkboek behandel in afsonderlike hoofstukke die ontwikkeling van die Nederlandse biblioteekwese, die Nederlandse vereniging van bibliotekarisse, wetenskaplike biblioteke, spesiale biblioteke, openbare biblioteke („openbare lees-zalen en bibliotheken”), kinderbiblioteke („jeugd-bibliotheken”), musiekbiblioteke, die biblioteek-kongresse, die maandblad „Bibliotheekleven” (waarop te min biblioteke in ons land inteken), die Vereniging se uitgawes, die buitelandse betrekkings, die verskillende soorte van biblioteekopleiding en die Vereniging se takke („kringen”, waarvan daar tans 10 is en die bywoning wissel van 20 na 130 besoekers). Aan die einde is 'n kort opsomming in die Engelse taal. Net jammer dat dit los is en nie saam ingebind is nie.

Behalwe die Vereniging wie se Gedenkboek onder bespreking is, is daar ook nog die „Centrale Vereniging voor Openbare Leeszalen en Bibliotheken” (1908). Gelukkig dat die twee ten nouste met mekaar saamwerk en albei in „Bibliotheek-leven” 'n gemeenskaplike joernaal onder 'n gesamentlike komitee het.

Daar is baie in die publikasie wat bewys dat die Nederlandse bibliotekarisse nie aan die slaap is nie dat ons tot groot voordeel van onself baie van hulle kan leer.

S. J. K.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION

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THE WORK OF THE "AFRICA LIBRARY" AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

by H. V. ROBERTS

Information Secretary, S. A. Institute of International Affairs

AFRICA is to-day advancing politically, socially and economically — at an increasing and in some respects an alarming rate. In the half-century just closed, mainly under the impact of two World Wars and the threat of another, it has been and is being jostled out of its primitive lethargy into all the activities of modern civilization. Where a hundred years ago there was not a single road in millions of square miles, there are to-day airfields, mines, plantations, factories, schools and hospitals and still, of course, thousands upon thousands of square miles as yet untouched by economic development. In this sudden advance all the races living in Africa are participating, the European with his eye on economic and industrial development, the African eager to catch up in every field, not least, politically. And with this sudden progress and desire for more progress there are complications — or "problems", to use a word appearing in the titles of many of to-day's books on Africa.

To help them deal with their own problems European and American countries have over the years built up reliable statistical and information services. In Africa such services are generally inadequate and sometimes non-existent. Yet in this crisis of development through which the continent is passing, it is careful study based on reliable information which is most needed.

There is to-day an urgent need of information on the various African territories and a special need that this information should be factual and, as far as is humanly possible, objective. I am sure, for example, that if the inhabitants of the Union and of the Gold Coast were more aware of the precise political, social and economic conditions obtaining in each other's country, many recent statements would be regarded as childish. If the social development of a certain independent African state were more widely known, its voice in the United Nations would not carry so much weight. Again, in the calm light of facts, the Central African Federation represents a political advance for the Africans whereas many ill-considered phrases bandied about Africa, Britain and America have, by their emotional appeal, only succeeded in bedevilling race relations in Central Africa.

It is against such a background that the work of the "Africa Library" of the S. A. Institute of International Affairs must be considered. It is fitting to add that we are conscious both of the vastness of the field and of the minuteness of our own efforts.

The South African Institute of International Affairs was founded in 1934 on the pattern of the Royal Institute at Chatham House in London and of similar institutes now existing in each Dominion. Its headquarters are established in Equity Building, Fox Street, Johannesburg and there are branches in Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth. Membership is restricted to citizens of the Union or other Commonwealth countries; in the Union there are approximately 600 members. Revenue has been derived from the subscriptions of members and corporate members (i.e. large business firms) and grants from American foundations.

The Institute is both non-governmental and non-political. Its object is "to promote through study, discussion, lectures and public addresses an understanding of international questions and problems". Soon after the recent war, however, the Council of the Institute realized that the Institute could make a valuable contribution to international understanding by directing its research activities to the little-known area now styled "Africa south of the Sahara". Research workers in South Africa are better placed, particularly as they themselves live in a multi-racial society, to study the development of this area than are those of Europe or America. This fact was also recognised in the United States and in 1950 the Carnegie Corporation of New York made a grant to the Institute which enabled it to proceed with its research policy by establishing an "Africa Library", which has now been in existence for about 2½ years.

In building up this Library the aim has been not to duplicate or overlap the work of other libraries in South Africa. There already exist several excellent collections on Africa, and notably two in Johannesburg: the Gubbins Library in the University of the Witwatersrand and the Africana Library housed and administered by the Johannesburg Public Library. The Institute's "Africa Library" deliberately excluded two fields — literature on the Union and collections of "Africana" — and concentrated on obtaining and maintaining up-to-date information about political, social and economic trends in the territories beyond the Union and south of the Sahara.

To do this, it was found necessary for members of the Institute staff to visit the various African territories in order to obtain the co-operation of governments in all their departments and to make contact with unofficial bodies and libraries, where they existed, from which supplementary information could be obtained. The General Secretary of the Institute and I have between us in the last two years visited almost every territory south of the Sahara with this object and the stream of governmental and non-governmental literature from these territories is now steadily reaching us. In addition the appropriate United Nations records dealing with trusteeship are received.

At the same time we have exercised great care in the selection of material purchased so as to keep within the framework of our research programme. Some works of an historical or even anthropological or ethnographic nature have been purchased for the light they throw on current problems, but the aim throughout has been to limit our acquisitions strictly according to our research needs.

Periodical literature obviously has a very important place in a Library that aims to provide up-to-date information. We receive well over 100 periodicals dealing with African problems, mainly from the African territories themselves, but a large number also from the countries of the so-called "colonial powers". Important articles in these periodicals are listed on cards. In addition we are steadily building up a press-cutting section for

each of the territories south of the Sahara, the more important territories having as many as forty or fifty subject divisions.

The "Africa Library" has so far issued three accessions lists: No. 1 in January 1951, and supplements in July 1951 and in January 1952. No further supplements will be issued until a consolidated list of all holdings has been prepared. This is planned to appear early in 1954 when it is expected that the basic stock of the Library will have been acquired.

What use is being made of this collection of information? Firstly, members of the Institute or its staff undertake research on African questions either individually or as study-groups. Since the Library was established we have published two books and a large pamphlet. The first of the books, published by the Oxford University Press at the end of 1951, was entitled *Africa south of the Sahara* and was the work of a study group. It is an overall survey of political, social and economic conditions in that region. The second, more limited in scope, was commissioned by Unesco and is entitled *The South African way of life*. It has recently been published by Wm. Heinemann in London. The pamphlet, published in the middle of 1952 by the Institute itself, dealt with the important question of the Protectorates. Further projects likely to be completed soon, deal with immigration to South Africa and the man-power of Africa south of the Sahara.

Secondly, we receive and encourage visits from research workers from the Union and overseas; they use our Library as a base for their initial inquiries. Lastly, the staff of the Institute answers by telephone or letter specific inquiries from individual members or business firms who have become corporate members of the Institute. Such enquiries cover subjects like education in non-British Africa or anti-White Secret Societies on the one hand, and details of development programmes and trading possibilities of the other.

Our problems in carrying out this work seem to be, judging by conversations I have had with other members of the Special Libraries Section, common to all special libraries — lack of space and shortage of staff.

In our task we consider that after two years we have established the basis of our future development. From now on we expect both to receive an increasing number of studies (since Africa is daily claiming more of the world's attention) and to help to produce more studies both from our own members and from other scholars. In this way we hope to play a part in throwing more light on what is still in many respects "darkest Africa".

BOOK REVIEW

GRENFELL, David. *Periodicals and serials: their treatment in special libraries*. With a foreword by E. M. R. Ditmas, editor of the *Journal of documentation*. London, Aslib, 1953. xiii, [iii], 200 p. 10/6 to members, otherwise 12/6.

This useful little book is by the chief cataloguer to the National film library in London. The author states in his introduction that while it is not in any sense a complete treatise on the subject, he hopes that it will assist not only the beginner in special library work, but also those more advanced in the profession. For this reason, his emphasis has been on practices rather than principles.

After an introductory chapter in which the groups or types of periodical are considered, the author goes on to describe in detail the processes involved in acquisition, accessioning, checking, completing

sets, disposal, circulation, lending and borrowing and bibliographic arrangement. A final chapter deals with periodicals in reference work.

A section at the end gives a list of national and international bibliographies (including under South Africa the *Handlists of South African periodicals* issued by the S. A. Public Library and *South African scientific and technical periodicals* published by the Library and information division of C. S. I. R.); lists of house journals; booksellers specializing in periodical literature; British union catalogues and lists of holdings; members of the library binders' section of the British federation of master printers; and foreign union catalogues and lists of holdings. The latter includes lists from Australia, Canada and South Africa. There is a comprehensive bibliography and an index.

C. D. S.

BRINGING CATALOGUE CODES UP TO DATE

Lubetzky, Seymour: Cataloguing rules and principles. Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, Processing Department, 1953. ix, 65p.

Cataloguers everywhere, who found few satisfactory answers to their problems in the A. L. A. rules of 1949, will welcome this careful study, and find that it gives expression to many of their present discontents.

The pamphlet consists of two critical chapters on personal and corporate authorship respectively, a chapter of constructive suggestions, and lastly, invited comments on an earlier draft of the first three chapters by authorities on the subject.

In the section on personal authorship, the writer's chief complaint is that the 1949 rules are cumbersome, over-lapping, and sometimes inconsistent. In his view, a careful pruning of unnecessary rules and minute directions, and replacing them by broad principles, would result in clearer and cheaper cataloguing without sacrificing the two main objectives — to show whether or not a given book is in the library, and to reveal what works the library has by a given author and what editions and translations of a given work.

In the field of corporate authorship, he condemns entirely the present distinction between societies and institutions, and instances the absurdity of entering the library of a university as Toledo. University. Library, but friends of the same library as Friends of the University Library, *University of Toledo*, and an alumni association of the same university under the name of the university. This, he says, is the inevitable consequence of rules aimed at illustrations rather than their qualifications, at objects rather than objectives. He advocates entering all corporate bodies under their names, whether "distinctive" or not, and so dispensing with the growing multitude of arbitrary rules and distinctions. Although not without its faults, this method would avoid the present necessity, for instance, of entering the Bibliothèque nationale under Paris, and the Archives nationales under France!

The author asserts that the criticisms of the rules made in his report have been widely shared by leading cataloguers abroad, and claims that in the international sphere his proposals will remove the two most important obstacles to a greater agreement, by substituting basic principles for the many detailed rules, and abandoning the distinction between "societies", "institutions", and "miscellaneous bodies", which have long been assailed as irrational and impractical by cataloguers in Europe, Asia and South America.

Until his proposals have been more fully worked out it is difficult to assess their value to the practising cataloguer, but there is no doubt that a code constructed on a basis of broad principles would be of great value in teaching cataloguing to pupils who are so bewildered by the mass of detail in existing codes that they are unable to see the wood for the trees.

H. M. R.

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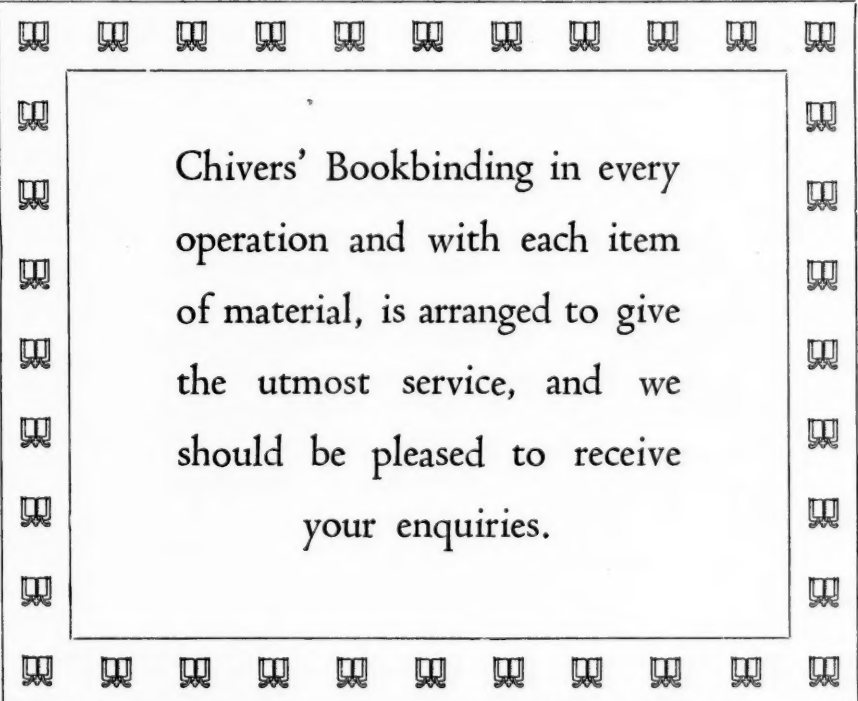
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